(ग) यदि हां तो इसमें की गयी सिफारिशों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन0वी0एन0सोमू) : (क) वायुमान दुर्घटनाओं के कारणों का पता लगाने और ऐसी क्षतियों को न्यूनतम करने के लिए एक व्यापक कार्य योजना तैयार करने हेतु एक समिति का गठन किया गया है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Disbanding Rashtriya Rifles

1834. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission while defining the role of the army in dealing with insurgency and internal security, have recommended to disband the Rashtriya Rifles; despite its outstanding contribution in confronting militancy professionally;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon;

(c) the steps being taken to absorb these personnel in other security outfits; and

(d) the circumstances warranting the formation of the Rashtriya Rifles and the objectives thereof and the extent to which the objectives have been fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The Fifth Pay commission has recommended, inter alia, that since the Army has no exclusive responsibility in the matter of internal security which is primarily the concern of MHA, there is a case for re-examination of the role of Rashtriya Rifles. The Pay Commission has also recommended that the Force be disbanded. Appropriate mechanisms have been instituted to analyse the recommendations of the fifth Pay Commission. Rashtriya Rifles is a Para military Force which is so far being manned by Army personnel on deputation basis. On expiry of their tenure with the Rashtriya Rifles, these personnel revert to their respective arm/ service. Keeping in view the prevailing internal security environment in the country, Rashtriya Rifles was raised with the objective to perform counter militancy role and for rear area security during periods of war. The Force has performed well in combating militancy in J&K and the North Eastern states.

Indian Ambassadors abroad

1835. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of countries where the posts of Indian ambassadors are lying vacant?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): At present, 11 posts of Ambassadors/High Commissioners are vacant. In respect of five of these vacancies, the Heads of Missions have already been nominated and they are completing formalities for taking up their assignments, action is underway to fill the other six vacancies.

Possession of Missiles by Neighbouring Countries

1836. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countreis which possess short range and IRBM ballistic missiles in our neighbourhood;

(b) the threat perception to the country whether Government propose to deploy Prithvi and manufacture and deploy AGNI, AKASH and other missiles;

(c) the time required to manufacture,

conduct tests and ultimately deploy missiles like Agni with capable war-head;

(d) whether there are any resource constraints for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) China, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia are reported to possess short range and/or IRBM ballistic missiles.

(b) Government of India are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

(c) Design, development and testing, leading to manufacture of missile system takes about 5 to 6 years depending upon the technical capability of the system and user trial programmes.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Achievement of ICCR

1837. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main achievements and activities of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations since its inception;

(b) the modality for selecting its executive board; and

(c) whether Govemment propose to set up a Committee to review and reappraise the functioning of the Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Indian Council for Cultural Relations was formally set up in 1950 with the primary objective or establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. It aims, as enunciated in the memorandum of Association, are:

— to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations;

— to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries;

— to promote cultural exchange with other countries and people; and

— to establish and develop relations with national and international organisations in the field of culture.

The Council has worked steadily to attain these objectives. The major activities of the Council include:

— Administration of scholarship schemes on behalf of the Govt, of India for international students;

— Exchange of scholars, academicians, opinion makers, artists and writers;

— Exchange of performaing art groups;

— Excchange of exhibitions;

— Organisation of and participation in seminars and symposia.

— Administration of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award.

— Organisation of the Maulanas Azad Memorial Lecture and Maulana Azad Essay Competition;

— Maintaining Indian Cultural Centres abroad and supporting special bilateral programmes.

— Establishing and maintaining chairs and professorships for Indian studies abroad;

— Publications;

— Presentation of books and musical instruments.

The details of the activities undertaken by the Council are included in the Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The composition and the procedures for constituting the statutory bodies of the Council, namely, the General Assembly, the Governing Body and the Finance Committee are laid down in